

Philip Lapsansky
Library Company of Philadelphia
1314 Locust St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107

December 15, 1997

Dear Phil:

In your Annual Report for 1996 (p. 37) you acquired an 1838 anti-slavery token which was circulated for one cent. This is a very important piece of propaganda against slavery.

I feel attention should be called to certain of your comments about it. The mirror image N is a die maker's error, not an effort to avoid counterfeiting laws. The male token has a proper N. The metal is copper not brass. They were sold at a discount to anyone who could pass them for one cent and were exactly the same size and of similar appearance to the United States cents of the period.

I enclose my write up of some of the history of the piece in case that is of interest.

Kindest regards and holiday greetings,

Eric P. Newman